

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUATEM 01135 232240Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 DHA-02
/069 W

-----240325 018332 /73

R 232200Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4936
INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 1135

E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: PINT, ES, SHUM

SUBJ: PRESS COMMENT ON SALVADORAN ELECTIONS

1. ONE OF MOST THOUGHTFUL AND PERCEPTIVE COMMENTS ON SALVADORAN ELECTIONS APPEARED FEB 23 IN GUATEMALAN DAILY EL GRAFICO, IN EDITORIAL SIGNED BY THE EDITOR AND OWNER, JORGE CARPIO (BROTHER OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSMAN ROBERTO CARPIO). CARPIO WRITES: QUOTE THE OFFICIAL CANDIDATE, GENERAL CARLOS HUMBERTO ROMERO (PCN), IS THE NEW SALVADORAN PRESIDENT...THE DISTANCE (IN VOTES) THAT SEPARATES THE TWO CANDIDATES IS ENORMOUS AND... THE ACCUSATION OF FRAUD MADE BY THE NATIONAL OPPOSITION UNION (UNO) SOUNDS EMPTY AND WEAK. THE LAST (UNO) POLITICAL RALLY THAT ATTRACTED (ONLY 5,000 PEOPLE TO 'LIBERTY' PLAZA TESTIFIES TO THE ...EXTREME WEAKNESS OF THE OPPOSITION IN THE FACE OF THE CRUSHING FAIT ACCOMPLI...

2. QUOTE CENTRAL AMERICA, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF COSTA RICA, DOES NOT POSSESS AN AUTHENTIC DEMOCRATIC FRAMEWORK. THE MIDDLE CLASSES, CAPTAINED BY ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, AND MILITARY
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OLIGARCHIES, HOLD POWER AND ARE NOT INCLINED TO SURRENDER IT TO THE DISPOSSESSED MASSES WHO SUPPORT THE OPPOSITION PARTIES. NICARAGUA REFLECTS, WITHOUT CIRCUMLOCUTIONS, ITS OWN TRUTH; THE CONCEPT (OF POWER) CORRESPONDS PERFECTLY WITH THE NATIONAL REALITY. IN HONDURAS, THE MILITARY HAS DOMINATED THE POLITICAL SCENE FOR SOME TIME. IN GUATEMALA AND EL SALVADOR THE REIGNING OLIGARCHIC SYSTEM CLOAKS ITSELF IN AN UNAUTHENTIC,

UNREAL DEMOCRATIC DRESS. DEMOCRACY WILL BE ACHIEVED IN OUR
COUNTRIES WHEN THE ECONOMIC STRUCTURE ADVANCES, WHEN THE
SOCIAL COMPOSITION IS MORE VARIED AND POWER CHANGES HANDS
--WHEN, FINALLY, THE ARMY PLAYS WITH FIRM DETERMINATION
THE ROLE THAT IT SHOULD HAVE AS THE GUARANTOR OF FREE ELECTIONS,
AND WHEN THAT SAME ARMY TURNS OVER POWER TO THOSE WHO HAVE
WON IT IN A FAIR CONTEST. DID THE OPPOSITION WIN IN EL SALVADOR,
OR DID OFICIALISMO REALLY TRIUMPH? IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY. BUT
IT APPEARS THAT THE LOSER WAS DEMOCRACY. END QUOTE.
BOSTER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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From: GUATEMALA
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